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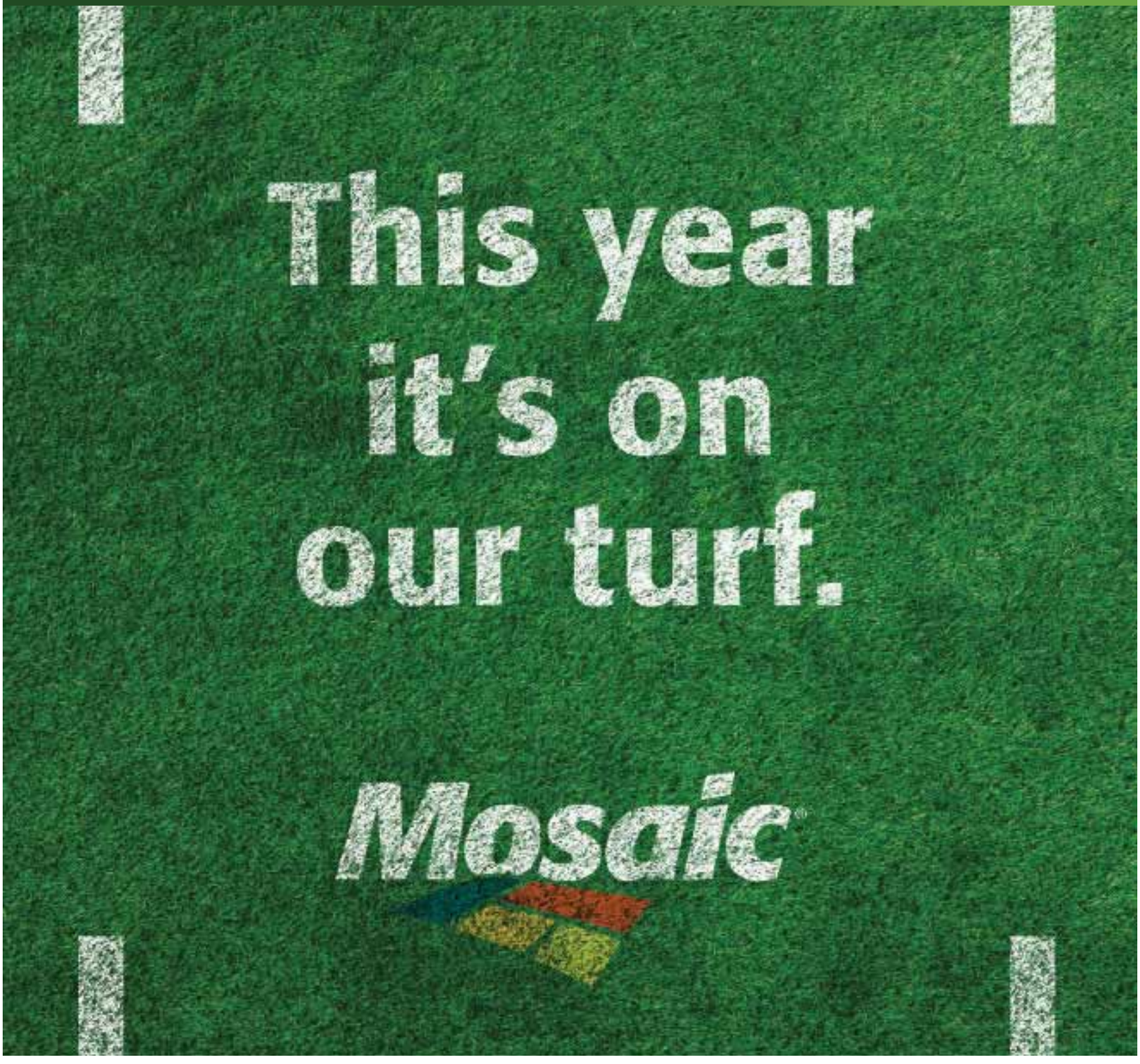

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Ixnaying XL would be 'tragedy': Exec

TransCanada Corp. warns oil would have to be transported by rail if the pipeline project is rejected, which would mean higher costs PAGE 4

CREDIT CARD, SCHMEDIT SCHMARD

IN WHICH THE DANIMAL'S DUCK-LIPPED, VODKA-SWILLING WIFE MAKES HER DEBUT PAGE 5

He's declaring Friday as "Green Day" in Saskatchewan, and he's practising what he preaches. Premier Brad Wall has his offices at the legislature decked out in Roughriders colours as he pushes for provincewide support for Saskatchewan's CFL team while it gears up for the Grey Cup championship game against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats on Sunday at Mosaic Stadium in Regina. Here, Wall is holding a helmet once used by former Riders player and current MLA Gene Makowsky. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

Mosaic closes in on last hurrah

'An end of an era.'
Former Riders share their memories as stadium readies to host its final Grey Cup game

The stadium that was once home to CFL greats George Reed, Ron Lancaster and Dave Ridgway is about to host its last championship game.

Mosaic Stadium at Taylor Field, home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, will hold the 101st Grey Cup clash on Sunday. And it will be torn down when a new facility is ready for the 2017 CFL season.

Former Roughriders player Steve Mazurak has fond memories of the place.

"I was blessed with the fact that I was able to be a teammate of Ron Lancaster and George Reed," said Mazurak, a Riders wide receiver and slotback from 1973 to 1981.

"To share a huddle with them and to stand there and go, 'OK, there's Ronny Lancaster, he's reading a play and he's actually calling my number,' that gives me goosebumps right this very second."

Steve Mazurak in the stands at the stadium. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former offensive lineman Gene Makowsky says the stadium holds a special place in his heart, too.

"Certainly, the playoff games are the big games, but I still for some reason just remember the last drive by (then-Riders quarterback) Kerry Joseph in the '07 Labour Day Classic," said Makowsky, who played for the Riders from 1995 to 2011. "He ran 30 yards untouched in the end zone, and the crowd just went wild."

Mosaic Stadium — traditionally known simply as Taylor Field, until private-sector sponsorship changed its name — last hosted the Grey Cup in 2003, when the Edmonton Eskimos beat the Montreal Alouettes in front of 50,909 fans. It also saw the Baltimore Stallions — the only American Cup-winning team — defeat the Calgary Stampeders for the championship in 1995.

Built as a rugby field in 1910, the stadium is known for old bench-style seating and for wind that, as Mazurak says, will "knock your socks off."

Now the Roughriders' vice-president of sales and corporate partnerships, Mazurak has mixed feelings about the pending demolition. But he also says it's time for a new facility. "Then we can finally be what we want to be for our fans," he said, "and that's major-league."

Makowsky is one of those fans, a season-ticket holder who takes his children to games.

"There's been people that have sat in the same seats for 40 and 50 years," Makowsky said.

"So that's going to be certainly an end of an era, and it'll be a little bit sad in a way."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GREY CUP COVERAGE, PAGE 12.

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Young aboriginals 'stepping forward' into leadership roles

Youth Summit.
Assembly of First Nations chief inspired by youth who say 'we've got this' — and tackle challenges facing their community

JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

The issues young aboriginal people in Canada face are comparable from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic.

On the second day of the National First Nations Youth Summit in Saskatoon, chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Shawn Atleo, facilitated a panel discussion featuring four youth leaders.

"Youth are stepping forward and being empowered to demonstrate leadership," he said. "This panel was a good example."

Having positive influences and role models, he added, sometimes means the difference between life and death.

"We know we have suicide rates that are five to six times the national average," said Atleo. "I am particularly inspired by the way young people are saying we've got this, we can absolutely step forward with confidence and tackle these challenges."

Erralyn Thomas, a 27-year-old from Nanaimo, B.C., and an AFN representative, said as a panellist part of her message was how she overcame the odds to achieve her goals.

"Alcohol broke up my family," said Thomas. "I was on the streets, worked in McDonalds for four years and my grandma pulled me in at 16 and sharpened me up."

She went on to graduate from the University of British Columbia's law school and play in the lacrosse World Cup.

"Sports taught me discipline, how to be a family member, dedication and drive," said Thomas.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo leads a panel discussion on leadership Tuesday during the National First Nations Youth Summit at TCU Place in Saskatoon. JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

From the opposite end of the country, Savvanah Simon of New Brunswick echoed that sentiment, and said she aimed to motivate attendees to be more than another statistic of substance abuse.

"(We have) common struggles, but we have unity as well, and the culture brings us together," said Simon.

PotashCorp commits $1M to food banks

Lee Knafelc, vice-president of human resources at PotashCorp, poses with Laurie O'Connor, executive director of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre.
JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Anyone getting into the giving spirit this holiday season could double their goodwill by donating to local food banks.

PotashCorp announced Tuesday that the company will continue their tradition of matching gifts made to food banks in Saskatchewan. This year the limit is $1 million, and the program lasts until Jan. 14.

"It's a province-wide initiative," said Lee Knafelc, vice-president of Human Resources at PotashCorp. "It runs from Lac la Ronge to Estevan. We have employees across the province, so it's great for us to be able to touch communities where our folks live."

CEO of the Regina Food Bank, Steve Compton, said the help is needed now more than ever, as the number of people requiring assistance is approaching a new high, with the food bank closing in on 11,000 requests per month.

"That's a big number for us," said Compton. "We've certainly seen the effects of the higher cost of living and shortage of housing."

He added that the support from PotashCorp will put his organization in a position to meet the demand, as it is encouraging people to get involved, because "every dollar they donate becomes two."

Laurie O'Connor, executive director of the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre, said 43 per cent of those who need hampers are children, so healthy items such as wholegrain products and hearty soups are of the most use.

"(We're looking for) things that are really going to fill people's bellies and give them the nutrition they need," said O'Connor.

JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Near Crooked River

CN rail worker struck, killed by freight train

A Canadian National Railway employee is dead after being struck by a freight train in Saskatchewan.

The accident happened Monday evening near the tiny community of Crooked River, about 230 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.

RCMP say the 39-year-old man was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at the hospital in Tisdale, about 15 kilometres away.

Sgt. Robert Findlay, a Tisdale RCMP spokesman, says the accident happened on the open prairie. Findlay says it's believed the man, whose name has not been released, was part of the train crew and may have been hit during a track-switching procedure.

CN has not released any details of the accident, but company spokesman Warren Chandler says the employee died during the performance of his duties.

CN police and the Transportation Safety Board are expected to be involved in the investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grey Cup

Regina, Hamilton mayors make friendly wager

In what has become an annual Grey Cup tradition, Mayor Michael Fougere and his counterpart, Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina, are making a friendly wager on the outcome of Sunday's game.

The mayor of the losing team in the CFL championship match will don a jersey of the Grey Cup winners at his next city council meeting, as well as fly the opposing team's flag outside city hall.

Also, the losing mayor will donate their combined weight in food to a food bank in the winning team's home city.

METRO

Rob Ford finds Jesus, Kenney finds his voice

Toronto, Ottawa.
Mayor says he's thrown out the booze, top Tory says he's shamed the city

Toronto's disgraced mayor, Rob Ford, says he's had a "Jesus moment."

He says he's turning his life around, staying off alcohol and trying to lose weight.

He told CBC's Peter Mansbridge he has had a "come to Jesus moment" brought on by all the "belittling."

It was just another eyebrow-raising episode in the Ford scandal, filled with sensational stories about drugs and alcohol.

Another jolt came in Ottawa from top Tory Jason Kenney. He become the first federal cabinet minister to call on Ford to resign.

"I will say as an elected official that I think Mr. Ford has brought dishonour to public office and the office of mayor and his city," Kenney said as he left the Commons.

"I wish he had taken a leave of absence some time ago to go and deal with his personal problems.

"But not having done that, I personally think he should step aside and stop dragging the city of Toronto through this terrible embarrassment."

Justin Trudeau also joined the fray. "I will take no lessons in accountability from a man whose fishing buddy is Rob Ford," Trudeau said in response to Stephen Harper's attempts to deflect his queries on the Senate scandal.

On Monday, councillors slashed Ford's budget and handed many of his duties and staff to the deputy mayor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Back on the job (what's left of it): Rob Ford arrives at Toronto City Hall Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sun News pulls plug

Ford TV show fades to black

Sun News has cancelled Mayor Rob Ford's TV talk show, Ford Nation, after its debut Monday evening.

Kory Teneycke, the network's vice-president, confirmed in an email to Torstar News Service that the show is over. The show was hosted by Ford and councillor brother Doug.

The cancellation came after one of the sponsors, Canadian Tire, publicly withdrew its support.

The move followed a flurry of criticisms on Twitter — some vowed to boycott the chain over its ties to the program.

TORSTAR /THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mystery in Virginia.

State senator stabbed, son killed by a gunshot

A U.S. state senator was stabbed Tuesday in his head and chest at his home, and his son died at the residence from a gunshot wound, police said.

A Virginia police spokesperson wouldn't say who stabbed R. Creigh Deeds or how his son was shot.

But she did say police were not looking for any suspects. The senator was in critical condition at a hospital.

After the stabbing, Deeds was able to walk away from his home to a nearby road in rural western Virginia and a cousin who was driving by happened to spot the senator, police said. They drove to the cousin's home and an emergency call was placed from there.

Inside the senator's home in Millboro, authorities found Deeds' 24-year-old son, Gus, suffering from a gunshot wound. Despite efforts by state troopers and first responders, he died there.

Deeds and wife Pam divorced shortly after a 2009 election campaign. Deeds remarried last year but authorities would not say whether anyone else besides the senator and his son were in the home at the time of the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doc guilty of molesting 21 sedated women in OR

An anesthesiologist accused of molesting 21 female patients during surgery was found guilty on all counts Tuesday.

Dr. George Doodnaught, who was called a "sexual opportunist" by the Crown, had pleaded not guilty to sexually assaulting each of the women.

Some of Doodnaught's victims were in the packed Toronto courtroom as the verdict was read, and some people could be heard sighing with relief or whispering "Yes."

The assaults reported by the 21 women were similar, generally involving a combination of Doodnaught kissing them, fondling their breasts and putting his penis in their mouth or hand while they were under conscious sedation.

Quoted

"Because he was known for his caring approach, OR staff did not consider it unusual for him to be in very close physical proximity to sedated patients."

Judge David McCombs

All but one occurred during surgeries at a Toronto hospital between 2006 and 2010.

Judge David McCombs found Doodnaught's guilt on all the counts "overwhelming."

He noted the women did not know each other and were unaware of the particulars of the other patients' stories when they separately came forward.

Doodnaught — known for being "touchy feely," the judge noted — will remain free on bail until sentencing.

A date for sentencing arguments is to be set on Dec. 13.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal election

One vote means she's a winner

Don't ever let anyone tell you your vote doesn't count.

Just ask newly elected Montreal councillor Lorraine Page — who won her seat by a single vote.

A Quebec election spokesperson says a judicial recount confirmed that Page captured her north-end district on Nov. 3 by one ballot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police in Mexico

Silence please, you're arrested

Members of a police force in Oaxaca, Mexico, can't hear or speak.

The Angels of Silence operate the city's surveillance cameras to look for street crimes.

Cynthia Zepeda, director of Oaxaca state's emergency services, said the officers have a highly developed visual sense.

"They allow us to notice situations that maybe a person who doesn't have that disability wouldn't notice. They read lips and can perceive suspicious movements in people," Zepeda said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Broke church law

Pastor stands firm on gay rights

A United Methodist minister convicted of breaking church law by officiating at the same-sex wedding of his son in the U.S. said Tuesday he is unrepentant.

He said he has been called by God to be an advocate for the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people.

Rev. Frank Schaefer, testifying at the penalty phase of his church trial, refused to promise he wouldn't perform another same-sex union. Three of his four children are gay.

The church "needs to stop judging people based on their sexual orientation. We have to stop the hate speech. We have to stop treating them as second-class Christians," he told a jury of fellow United Methodist pastors in Pennsylvania.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A day in the life...

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If Keystone XL pipeline denied, rail will be used

TransCanada Corp.
Exec warns company on track to transport more oil by railway if controversial project gets turned down

A worker inspects a railway car that was part of a convoy of cars carrying crude oil that derailed resulting in explosions in Lac-Mégantic, Que., on July 7. An executive at TransCanada Corp. says rail will be used more often to transport oil if the Keystone pipeline project is not approved. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A denial of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would lead to more oil moving across the continent by rail, an executive with pipeline builder TransCanada Corp. said Tuesday, calling such an outcome a "tragedy."

"While we view rail as a complementary short-term solution until more pipeline capacity is brought online, more rail terminals will be built to fill the capacity gap if Keystone XL is not approved," Alex Pourbaix, president of energy and oil pipelines, told an investor conference.

"And I think it's a real tragedy if this situation continues indefinitely, as pipelines are obviously much more cost-effective. They are statistically safer and more environmentally friendly to transport oil."

By the end of 2015, Pourbaix said rail loading capacity in Alberta is expected to double to 800,000 barrels per day — almost as much as the long-stalled Keystone XL pipeline would carry south of the border.

At the same time, Pourbaix said U.S. Gulf Coast rail unloading capacity is expected to exceed 900,000 barrels per day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Train troubles

With Keystone XL and other pipelines mired in regulatory delays, oil producers have been turning to rail.

- Scrutiny over the safety of that mode of transport has intensified after a series of high-profile events. Most notably, a train laden with oil crashed into the town of Lac Mégantic, Que., this summer, killing 47 people.

Random biz fact of the day

46%

46 per cent of workers said a company's employment brand plays a very big role in their decision to apply for a job within the organization.
CAREERBUILDER

Market Minute

DOLLAR 95.50¢ (-0.36¢)

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Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 13

metronews.ca/temp

Sick daze

In sickness and in health, temps show up for work

The insecurity of temporary employment prevents workers from taking the time off to address their health issues, argues a team of researchers from the Institute for Work & Health, an independent not-for-profit organization, in a 2010 study.

They found that:

• Workers in temporary jobs were 37 per cent less likely to be absent due to sickness compared to those with permanent positions.

• Workers with tenure of one to three months were 27 per cent less likely to take an absence when compared to workers who hold a longer tenure.

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO

ISTOCK

Woe befalls Walmart

Fight for your rights, face retaliation?

Federal officials in the U.S. are prepared to file formal complaints against Walmart for allegedly violating the legal rights of protesting workers last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Temp Does Ambulance Duty

I asked Darren to put Dan into the BMW's back seat. "If we dump him by the door at Crown, they'll be forced to take pity on him."

Darren rifled through the glove compartment. "Look! A BlackBerry Z10!" The BlackBerry then promptly rang (ringtone: Dust in the Wind by Kansas). "Hello?"

A woman squawked on the other end. I grabbed the receiver. "Hello, who's this?"

"It's Chantelle, Dan's wife. Who's this?"

"I'm Shannon. I'm a temp at Dan's office. He had an accident and we're trying to take him to a hospital but he doesn't have his credit cards so nobody wants him."

"Come to our house and pick me up."

"Aren't you in Florida?"

"I found a card with a pile of unused frequent flyer miles so I returned early."

Chantelle was on the curb. Her lips were swollen like Donald Duck's beak, and it was hard to not stare.

"I know I look strange but I never expected to get old and then one day it happened and, as you can see, I'm not handling it well. I know I look ridiculous."

On cue both Darren and I chimed, "No, you look great!"

Darren added, "I'm sure your lips will look terrific once they deflate, Chantelle."

Chantelle was unruffled by the sight of Dan in the back, and with me at the wheel and Darren in the passenger seat looking and smelling very street-y. Chantelle removed a fifth of vodka from her purse. "Any takers?"

Darren eagerly accepted, and we soon arrived at Crown Permanente. "You two lug him in," she said. "I'll handle the staff."

"You've got your credit cards, then?"

"Cards shmards. A well-dressed, well-nourished white woman with obvious cosmetic surgery is welcome in any hospital on the planet."

Dang if she wasn't right. The supermodel nurse beamed at her, while another fetched her a cappuccino and asked which satellite music station she preferred. We dropped Danimal's carcass inside the door and two hot guys who looked like Qantas flight attendants whisked him away. It couldn't have been more pleasant.

"You two wait in the car. I'll be out in a sec."

Chantelle soon emerged and got into the back seat. "Shannon take me home. Darren, you stay the night at my place. We can party and maybe you can take a shower later. Dan's clothes will fit you, too. Shannon, you keep the car for a few days."

"I'm Shannon. I'm a temp at Dan's office. He had an accident and we're trying to take him to a hospital ..."

"Seriously?"

"I may be aging gracelessly, but I'm no idiot like Kevin's wife. Just promise me you won't set fire to it."

"It's a promise."

I feel like a bad person, but I was so excited to have a Beemer for a few days that I forgot to ask what was wrong with Dan.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

Random biz fact of the day

67%

A majority of job seekers say they would accept a lower salary if the company had exceptionally positive reviews online (67 per cent) or a lot of positive press recently (65 per cent).

SOURCE: NEXCAREER

Random fact of the day

Call it experimental parenting.

- A dad only spoke Klingon to his son for the first three years of his life to study how children developed language.

SOURCE: OMG-FACTS.COM

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TO THINE OWN SELFIE BE TRUE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Have you heard the Word?

The Word of the Year, that is.

According to the Oxford Dictionaries, the 2013 Word of the Year is "selfie": "A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or web cam and uploaded to a social media website."

Selfie beat out other worthy words, such as "binge-watch," which is the stupefying practice of watching entire seasons of TV episodes in a single, coma-inducing couch session, and "olinguito," the cute, little, previously-unknown mammal found in the mountain forests of Colombia and Ecuador.

Just think how trendy you can sound if you get all three into a single sentence, something like:

"I was, like, binge-watching back episodes of Too Cute on Animal Planet and uploading selfies 'cause I was like — bored — when I came across a program about the olinguito, which, was, like, just discovered this year. It's like the smallest member of the raccoon family."

Or something like that.

Selfie is the perfect word for a neo-narcissist generation that can't resist itself. Typically a selfie is taken in poor light, usually out of focus, artlessly posed and composed, but nevertheless considered suitable for sharing with the WHOLE world on Instagram.

I don't see the attraction. Every selfie I've ever taken looks like Nick Nolte's mug shot and has been instantly deleted. I guess I need to spend more time getting in touch with my inner 15-year-old girl.

I'm obviously in the minority. Oxford picked selfie because the frequency of use has increased by 17,000 per cent over the same time last year.

Which leads me to wonder if the Oxonians are running some vast offshore language surveillance pound where bearded professors in tweed and leather elbow-patched jackets monitor the world's conversations while sipping sherry.

You should know as well that Oxford's not the only outfit engaging in this Word of the Year racket. In fact, there's even a Word of the Year season. This year's began on Nov. 5, when the Global Language Monitor issued its 10 Top Words, which, oddly enough, does not include selfie. The two lists do however share "twerking," which is defined as: "To dance to popular music in a sexually provocative manner involving thrusting hip movements and a low, squatting stance." As in: "Look, Daddy, Hanna Montana's twerking."

The Word of the Year season ends, thankfully, in January, when the American Dialect Society announces its candidate. Last year's, by the way, was "hashtag," as in "#decline of Western civilization."

Meanwhile, you'll have to excuse me. I'm not feeling too well. I dropped my smartphone into the toilet while I was taking a selfie of me taking a selfie in the bathroom mirror, and now I'm suffering from nomophobia (2012 runner-up) which means "anxiety caused by being without one's mobile phone."

I feel so unfriended (2009).

ZOOM

Shot with a DIY cam? Snow way

A Russian photographer proves you don't need expensive equipment to take wonderful macro photographs.

Alexey Kljatov, from Moscow, used a homemade camera rig consisting of a wooden board, adhesive tape, a piece of glass and a $45 lens from an old camera to capture the beautiful shapes of snowflakes.

Kljatov's images prove that no two snowflakes are alike, but it's down to atmospheric factors that give snow crystals their uniqueness. Snowflakes are hexagonal in shape in their basic form, but once they've fallen, the crystals interact with temperature, vapour and gravity.

METRO

COURTESY ALEXEY KLJATOV

Photog's viewpoint

"As the first frost arrives, I spread my woolen scarf on my open-air balcony and wait for the snowflakes to fall."
Alexey Kljatov

Kljatov's DIY setup features a Canon Powershot A650 and a 44M-5 Helios lens from a Soviet Zenit camera. COURTESY ALEXEY KLJATOV

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Congratulations to 'selfie' for deservedly bringing home the Oxford Dictionaries 2013 Word of the Year tiara. We glanced away from the bathroom mirror long enough to check the official shortlist, and here are some of the runners-up.

A picture of two people taking a photo of themselves — also known as a group selfie. BOB DASS/FLICKR

Twerk:

Credit pearl-clutchers trying to shield us from the evils of Miley Cyrus for teaching our elders about twerking. However, the excellence of We Can't Stop aside, Miley isn't the twerk authority. Seek out Big Freedia, the mighty New Orleans rapper with a mightier stage show and cut-to-the-chase lyrics like "a-- over here/a-- over there/a-- everywhere." Bonus: An instructional video on teaching your dog to twerk.(bigfreedia.com)

Binge-Watch:

Breaking Bad was to binge-watching what Miley was to twerking. Sadly, one of them will never be heard from again. But if you happen to be up to date on the fate of Walter White, there's plenty of other binge-worthy shows on Netflix. Top of the Lake and The 4400 are fine fare for drama fans. Archer and Peep Show are shining beacons of comedy.

Schmeat:

Synthetically made meat that's less pejoratively known as "in-vitro." In August, a team of scientists served up the world's first hamburger made from the stuff, the end stage of a process that began with harvesting muscle cells from a living cow. The world's rising demand for food isn't a passing trend, so pencil schmeat in as a 2014 contender. Learn more about how it was done at culturedbeef.net.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Oxford Dictionary declared 'selfie' 2013's word of the year. Whatevs. Nominate a word of the year for our Best Of List

@Canucklehead_ca: twerk: As in, "Guess I have time for a quick beer before I get back twerk." Cheers!

@CHFIErin: Anything but "adorbs". It's just "ridic".

@Xenojay: At least it's not "duckface"? #Selfie #WordOfTheYear #HumansAreTerrible

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Rock 'n' roll's temp-tation

Filling the shoes of an established artist is never easy but sometimes 15 minutes of fame is all you need to jump start a career or revitalize an existing one.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Tim "Ripper" Owens

One minute he's a hardcore Judas Priest fanboy screaming his favourite band's songs as the frontman of a tribute act and the next minute he's stepping in for Rob Halford behind the mic.

During his seven-year stretch with the British metal gods he worshipped growing up, Owens recorded a pair of studio albums (Jugulator and Demolition) and a couple live ones and garnered a Grammy nomination for best metal performance in 1999 for Bullet Train.

Aftermath: Owens' fan-to-frontman story inspired the Mark Wahlberg movie Rock Star.

David Coverdale

Before Whitesnake and achieving monster balladeer immortality, Coverdale read an article in Melody Maker that changed his life.

Ian Gillan had quit the band and Deep Purple were auditioning singers. Coverdale's bluesy vocals and impressive rocker hair fit the bill and just like that he's heading to America for the first time and walking out on a stage in front of over 200,000 screaming fans at 1974's California Jam.

You can hear Coverdale on Purple's Burn, Stormbringer, and Come Taste the Band.

Aftermath: "An' here I go again on my own/ Goin' down the only road I've ever known/ Like a drifter I was born to walk alone."

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

J.D. Fortune

After hearing guitarist Tim Farriss tell him the words he was praying to hear, "You are right for our band," on the finale of CBS's Rock Star: INXS, Fortune went from sleeping in his car to touring the world with one of Australia's sexiest musical exports.

It was a fairy tale dream come true for the Mississauga native who never had much luck with office jobs and once paid the bills as an Elvis impersonator.

A longtime fan, the first song Fortune learned to play on the guitar growing up was the band's smash Devil Inside.

Aftermath: INXS fired Fortune in 2011. Chasing Fortune a film about J.D.'s wild ride and his attempts to keep on rocking premieres Nov. 12 on Super Channel.

Ronnie James Dio

After Black Sabbath sacked Ozzy Osbourne in 1979, Ronnie James Dio — who had previously fronted Elf and Rainbow — was tapped to join heavy metal's most influential band.

Dio revitalized Sabbath during his original three-year spell with the band. But you only really know how much they love you when they ask you back, as they did in the early '90s to record Dehumanizer.

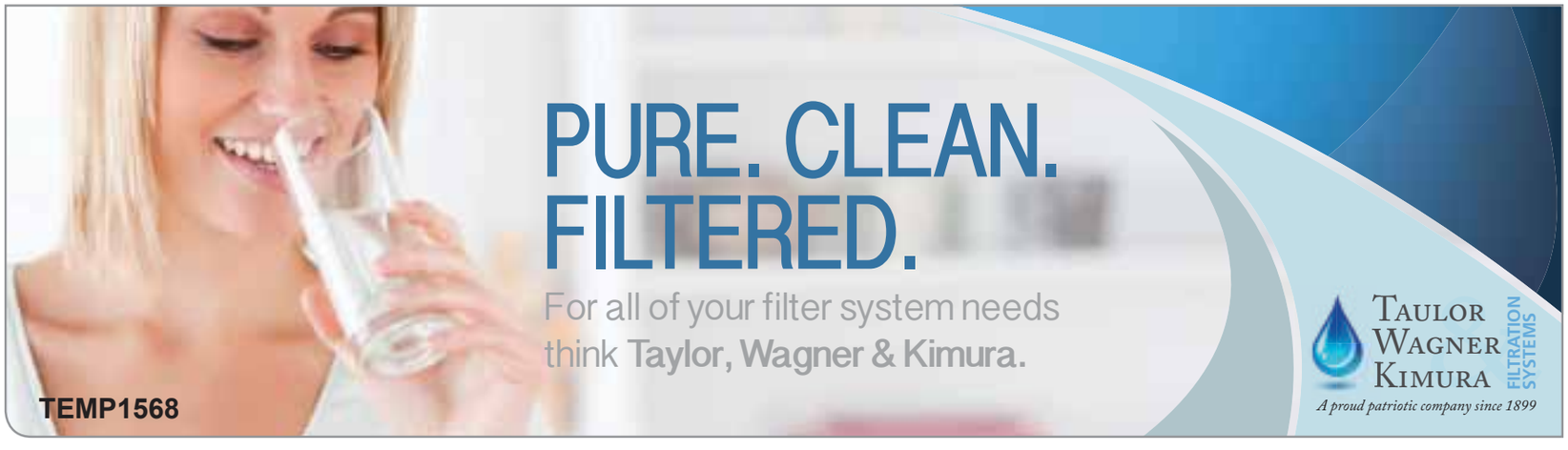
Aftermath: Dio was a successful '80s solo artist spurred by the strength of hits like Holy Diver and Rainbow in the Dark. Before his untimely passing in 2010 he would "temp" again with Sabbath buddies Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler on a 98-date world tour under the band name Heaven & Hell.

Adam Lambert

While nobody can really replace Freddie Mercury, the American Idol Season 8 glam rocking runner-up has the dramatic chops and requisite vocal gymnastic abilities to do Queen anthems We are the Champions and Bohemian Rhapsody justice.

Following the five year Queen + Paul Rodgers collaboration, which resulted in a pair of world tours and a studio album, Lambert has stepped up to the plate.

Aftermath: Lambert last performed with Queen at this fall's iHeart Radio Festival and he had a guest stint on Glee this month.



The Word

The dictionary people just want to be friends with celebrities

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York City

I think the Oxford English Dictionary is trying to suck up to Kim Kardashian.

What other explanation could there be for their selection of "selfie" as the word of the year? Is word of the year even a thing? Stop trying to make word of the year happen, Oxford English Dictionary.

The official explanation for the OED's choice of selfie is the word's sudden ubiquity. "It's not a new word," their blog explains. "But our word of the year need not be a new word. However, it does need to demonstrate some kind of prominence over the preceding year or so and selfie certainly fits the bill. It seems like everyone who is anyone has posted a selfie somewhere on the Internet. If it is good enough for the Obamas or the Pope, then it is good enough for word of the year."

Whatever, OED. All I can say about this clear attempt to get RTed by selfie addicts like Kim Kardashian and Miley Cyrus is, please let me know if it works, because I would also like to be friends with celebrities. This is The Word, after all. The Word's word of the year could totally be a thing.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Seems the Biebs' now-public confidentiality agreement is for real

Justin Bieber's attempts to keep the goings-on at his house parties quiet aren't necessarily working, as a guest from his all-night bash last week leaked the confidentiality agreement the pop star reportedly makes guests sign to TMZ. And one of his regular guests, marijuana dispensary owner Milk Tyson, confirms to E! News that the document is legit. "It's very unfortunate that someone would do that," he says of the leak, adding that it "may have been one of the girls." Tyson didn't give details about the party, but he did confirm that Snoop Dogg was in attendance.

Meanwhile, there's yet another sour note in Bieber's controversy-filled Latin American tour. Mexico's president has denied a tweet in which the singer said he met with the president and his family prior to a show. WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justin Bieber

Was Brittany Murphy poisoned?

When Brittany Murphy passed away suddenly in 2009, the official cause of death was pneumonia and anemia. Most people assumed that, in the case of a super-skinny, erratic starlet, that was a euphemism for death by drug abuse. When her husband, Simon Monjack, died just five months later of the same cause — pneumonia and anemia — that fit neatly in with the theory.

However, Murphy's father, Angelo Bertolotti, wasn't satisfied. He recently secured the rights to send samples of Murphy's hair and tissue to a lab for independent testing. The Examiner has the lab report, and it tells a shockingly different story:

"Ten of the heavy metals evaluated were detected at levels higher than the WHO (World Health Organization) high levels. ... If we were to eliminate the possibility of a simultaneous accidental heavy metals exposure to the sample donor then the only logical explanation would be an exposure to these metals (toxins) administered by a third party perpetrator with likely criminal intent."

Brittany Murphy
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Heavy metals such as those found at high levels in Murphy's body are often present in rat poison and insecticides. They can cause all the symptoms that Murphy and Monjack suffered before their deaths.

It's hard to remember all the way back to 2007 when Murphy and Monjack were married, but the two were frequently the target of tabloid speculation. Monjack had a shady, criminal past, and once they were hitched, Murphy started to act increasingly strange and appear increasingly gaunt. DOROTHY ROBINSON/METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK CITY

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The city on the St. Lawrence River offers walks down centuries-old streets lined with elegant architecture and historic sites. Best of all, many of Montreal's greatest attractions can be experienced for free. Here are five free things to do on a visit to Montreal.

PHOTOS AND STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Free things to do in Montreal

Mount Royal

You can look up and see the towering trees of Mount Royal from nearly everywhere in Montreal. The nearly 200-hectare park tops out at 770 feet and boasts running, hiking and biking trails, an overlook onto downtown Montreal and a large lake. Frederick Law Olmsted, the man behind New York's Central Park, drew the plans for the park.

Old Montreal and Old Port

The historic Old Montreal or Vieux Montreal district stretches along the St. Lawrence River in the southern part of Montreal. You could spend hours wandering the twisty, narrow walkways. Along the banks of the river at the Old Port, watch barges from a tree-lined park. A walking tour could include the Notre Dame Basilica and Montreal City Hall.

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

The collection at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts ranges from the European Renaissance, Rembrandt and Monet to Inuit sculpture, Jean-Michel Basquiat and other modern works. Admission to the general collection and outdoor sculpture garden is free.

Notre Dame de Bon Secours Chapel

A large statue of the Virgin Mary stands atop this church on the St. Lawrence River, leaning forward to welcome sailors into harbour. The origins of this ornate church date to the 1650s and the chapel visitors see today dates to the 1770s.

Jean Talon Market

Small markets dot the Montreal streets but one of the larger and more interesting is Jean Talon Market or Marche Jean-Talon. The market has both covered and uncovered stalls filled with seasonal produce, cheeses, pastries and breads and other local specialties, like maple syrups. It all makes for a colourful and lively walk.

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You'll be coming round the mountain

Beaver Creek.
Colorado ski resort has something luxurious for everyone

ANDREW DOBSON
life@metronews.ca

Beaver Creek features 25 lifts and 150 conventional ski trails. CHRIS MCLENNAN

Beaver Creek, near Avon, Colo., offers a playground for well-to-do couples and families keen on experiencing the crème de la crème in fine dining, resort accommodation and Rocky Mountain alpine adventures.

The resort has 25 lifts and 150 conventional trails. In addition to skiing and snowboarding, Beaver Creek has a dedicated Nordic and snowshoe centre.

Guests have the opportunity to explore 32 km of trails as well as Haymaker Tubing Hill, which offers sliding fun for those three feet and taller.

Outfitters in the area also offer snowmobile tours, dog sledding and winter fly fishing.

Family friendly New Year's Eve

The third Annual NYE Family Fun Carnival is always a big hit with locals and tourists alike. Each year the alfresco party sells out, so be sure to book your tickets early.

The event starts with a Torchlight Ski Down at 6:15 p.m. followed by fireworks that blast off in The Village at 6:45 p.m.

Guests stay up until the wee hours of the night with the opportunity to enjoy carnival midway games, interactive inflatable fun, pool tables, foosball, arcade, dancing, a photo booth and two balloon drops.

The Pines Lodge

Nestled among ancient aspen and pine groves on the slopes of Beaver Creek Resort, this lodge offers a great view of the Colorado Rockies with handy ski-in/ski-out access.

The 60-room lodge is home to Grouse Mountain Grill — an AAA Four Diamond Award-winning restaurant — outdoor pool, Jacuzzi and fitness centre.

Guest rooms feature rich pine wood, a marble bath area, ski boot heaters, plush bathrobes and RockResorts Spa products.

Condominiums and townhomes are also available and feature one to four bedrooms with spacious living areas, full kitchens, washer and dryers, balconies, soaking tubs and fireplaces.

Cabin feast

If you're making the trip down to Beaver Creek, check out Beano's Cabin. In the winter guests are picked up in a sleigh and whisked up the mountain to the restaurant's jaw-dropping location.

The decor is classic Rocky Mountain lore, complete with bear skin hide, antique ski and snow shoes, a deer bust, framed cowboy-loving landscapes and elk antler chandeliers.

The five-course dinner, prepared by executive chef Bill Greenwood, offers exquisite culinary panache on the plate paired with a live band that croons moody Gordon Lightfoot ballads for guests.

Treat yourself

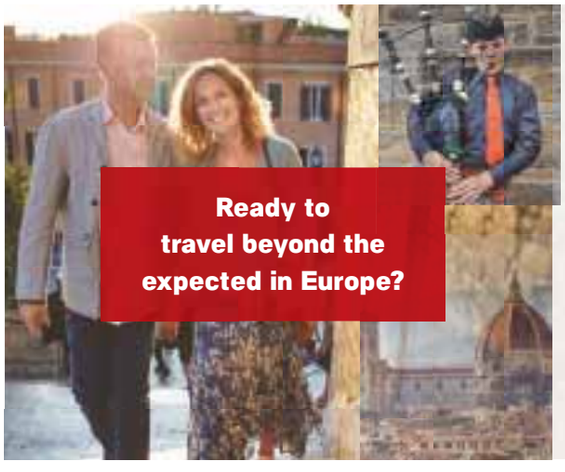
Those looking for a bit of pampering should book themselves into the Allegria Spa at The Park Hyatt.

Start off your visit at the relaxing Aqua Sanitas, modelled on ancient Roman baths.

Guests can indulge in a self-guided water ritual with a thermal pool, caldarium mineral pools, rain shower, caldarium steam room and tepidarium — a warm room heated by an underfloor heating system. From the spa menu, signature treatments include a Ginger Peach Cure and Slumber Massage.

Come fly with me!

Air Canada recently announced non-stop winter service from Toronto to Vail/Eagle Airport commencing Dec.14, which means Ontario-based ski bums now have an opportunity to conquer new North American moguls and mountains this ski season.



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Chicken Pot Stickers go from blah to yum with a drool-worthy filling

Chicken Pot Stickers

This recipe makes 28 pieces. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

When I go for dim sum, I enjoy pot stickers. But, as with egg rolls, I often find the fillings boring, and tasty only with the dipping sauce. My version of pot stickers has a delicious filling, and they're easy to prepare.

If wontons aren't available, use small egg roll wrappers.

These can be prepared early in the day and kept refrigerated. Cook just before serving.

Ingredients

Sauce
- 1/2 cup Hoisin sauce, divided

Filling
- 8 oz lean ground chicken
- 1 clove finely chopped garlic
- 1 chopped green onion
- 2 tbsp chopped cilantro
- 28 small wonton wrappers
- 1/2 cup low-sodium beef or chicken stock
- 3 tbsp chopped cilantro

1. Measure out about 2 tbsp of the Hoisin sauce and set aside.

2. To make the filling: Combine the chicken, garlic, green onion and cilantro in the bowl of a food processor. Add the 2 tbsp of reserved sauce, and pulse on and off until the filling is finely and evenly chopped and everything is well combined.

3. Place 2 tsp of the filling in the centre of each wrapper. Pull the edges up to make a small bundle, pleating and bunching. Press the edges together to seal.

4. In a large nonstick skillet lightly coated with cooking spray, cook the pot stickers, flat side down, over medium high heat for 3 minutes or until they are golden brown on the bottom.

5. Add the stock and reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for 2 minutes or until cooked through. Remove from the pan and discard any remaining stock. Serve with the remaining sauce. Garnish with cilantro. THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Nutritional analysis

Per serving: 81 calories, 15 g carbohydrates, 0.6 g fibre, 4 g protein, 0.6 g total fat, 0.1 g saturated fat, 12 mg cholesterol, 230 mg sodium

Drink of the Week

Spiced Mexican Coffee

- 4 cups (1 l) water
- 6 cinnamon sticks
- 2 vanilla beans, split
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) finely ground Viennese or Italian roast coffee
- 6 packets Pure Via sweetener
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) 1% low fat milk, steamed

Combine water, cinnamon sticks, vanilla beans and honey in 3-quart (3 l) saucepan. Heat on medium heat to boiling, stirring frequently. Stir in coffee and Pure Via sweetener. Remove from heat. Let steep 5 minutes. Strain coffee into six small mugs. Discard cinnamon and vanilla. Top evenly with steamed milk and serve.

NEWS CANADA/ PUREVIA.CA

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If you develop a strategy for effectively managing the emails that you receive, you will waste less time and be responsive, organized and less stressed. ISTOCK

When dealing with email communication it is crucial to conduct yourself in a professional manner.

Everyone has received an email lacking a salutation or sign-off and only a bare attempt at capitalization, grammar or sentence structure. If these habits continue when the sender enters the workforce he or she will find that this unprofessional behaviour can have a significant and negative impact on career prospects.

If you take the time to write accurate, concise and respectful emails you will be perceived in a better light and will likely receive more positive and helpful responses.

Here are some tips to help you create a professional image and manage your email:

Compose
When writing emails it is always best to err on the side of formality. Professional emails should include accurate punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, grammar and spelling.

If you are not sure how to address someone, start with the most formal option like Dear Ms. Smith, then wait for the reply to determine how to address further correspondence.

For professional communication emoticons, abbreviations and slang acronyms like LOL are too informal.

Insert the receiver's address last. This ensures that you do not accidentally send an incomplete email or forget an attachment. This is particularly important when dealing with a sensitive topic. Better yet, if a topic is sensitive, don't send an email; go and talk directly to the person in order to avoid a misreading of your tone or intent.

Format
Avoid the use of wallpaper or colourful fonts that are distracting and slow down the receiver's ability to process the message.

When it comes to font type and size stick with the basic serif fonts, such as Times New Roman, or sans-serif, such as Arial, in the 10-to-11-point range.

Reread messages before sending. This allows you to check the tone and content of the message from the reader's perspective and enables you to catch mistyped words — such as god instead of good — that will not be caught by your spell checker. An articulate, concise and accurate email tells others that you are intelligent, professional and detail oriented.

The cleaning of the comp

- **Keep your inbox tidy.** Use electronic folders to archive messages that you may need to refer to in the future. Keep the inbox for current items that you need to deal with. This will help you feel organized and less overwhelmed and stressed.
- **Open an email once.** Don't waste your time by reading an email and then leaving it to sit because you don't feel like answering it only to have to return to the same email later. Have a one-touch policy for each email: open it, answer it and then delete or file it.

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Durant relishes chance to prove critics wrong

Roughriders quarterback Darian Durant speaks to the media Tuesday. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

#dariansfault. Riders QB wants to show he can win the big game in third Grey Cup appearance

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
marco.vigliotti@metronews.ca

After years of criticism in football-mad Saskatchewan about his inability to win the big game, Roughriders quarterback Darian Durant is approaching Sunday's Grey Cup tilt in Regina with a chance to cement his legacy as one of the CFL's premier pivots.

"Quarterbacks are measured off of championships," Durant told reporters on Tuesday at Mosaic Stadium about his motivation heading into the Grey Cup game against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

"To finally be able to get (a Grey Cup) would mean the world to me."

Despite leading Saskatchewan to Grey Cup games in 2009 and 2010, Durant has often taken the brunt of criticism from the Rider faithful for those two defeats.

Though a heartbreaking too-many-men penalty robbed the Riders of the 2009 championship, Durant has been the poster boy for recent big-game letdowns — best symbolized by the widespread use of the hashtag "Darian's fault" on Twitter when the team has suffered miscues outside of its quarterback's control.

While parroting the company line about putting the team before the individual, Durant admits he's relishing the opportunity to prove his critics wrong by winning his first Grey Cup as a starting quarterback in arguably the biggest game in the franchise's history.

"I think it is human nature, whenever you're being talked about in a negative way, to want to prove people wrong," he explained, adding that he hasn't let the criticism change him as a player.

"At the end of the day, all I can do is just go out and play football to the best of my ability. And that's what I've been doing."

Austin leads Ticats' leap into Grey Cup

Hamilton Tiger-Cats head coach Kent Austin is a figure that literally looms large over Mosaic Stadium, site of the 101st Grey Cup.

That's because a 21-metre-high banner of Austin hangs outside the stadium, which is home to the Saskatchewan Roughriders football club. It's a tribute to the quarterback who guided the Riders to the 1989 Grey Cup championship and was head coach when the Green and White clinched the title in 2007.

Austin left the Roughriders after the championship win and spent five years in the U.S. college ranks before becoming Hamilton's head coach and general manager last December.

Saskatchewan spoiled Austin's return to Regina in the regular season with a 37-0 win over the Ticats in July.

But Riders head coach Corey Chamblin says the Ticats are "a totally different team" now.

"They do so many different things from when we played them early in the season," Chamblin said at a news conference Tuesday. "They've totally changed ... a lot of things that they've done and I'm sure (they think) the same thing when they look at us on film, so it'll be a fresh game and it'll be one of those where there'll be a lot of adjustments throughout the course of that game."

Hamilton heads into the Grey Cup game on a roll, having won 11 of its last 15 games, including last week's East Division final against 2012 Grey Cup champion Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last meeting

The last time Saskatchewan and Hamilton faced each other in the Grey Cup was in 1989, when Kent Austin quarterbacked the Riders. Saskatchewan won 43-40 with a last-second field goal from Dave Ridgway.

Tiger-Cats head coach Kent Austin will face his former team in the Grey Cup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weekly awards

Sheets named top offensive player

Saskatchewan Roughriders running back Kory Sheets is the CFL's offensive player of the week after leading his team to a berth in the Grey Cup.

Sheets had a season-high 28 carries for 177 yards and scored a touchdown to help Saskatchewan defeat Calgary 35-13 in the West Division final.

Kory Sheets TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teammates Jermaine McElveen and Diamond Ferri were named defensive player of the week and special-teams player of the week, respectively. Tiger-Cats receiver Andy Fantuz captured top Canadian honours. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2014 Honda Accord Hybrid

ABOVE PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Review. Honda's latest hybrid a refined way to get great fuel economy

MIKE GOETZ
Drive@metronews.ca

Nothing like a butt kicking to get you motivated.

The 2014 Accord Hybrid debuts a completely new and different hybrid system, unlike anything found on the previous and easily forgotten Accord Hybrid (2004-2006) and/or the slow-selling hybrids still in Honda's portfolio — Civic Hybrid and CR-Z.

This 2014 Honda Accord Hybrid is not just great for a hybrid — it's a great car. For one thing, it is based on the new, ninth-generation Accord, just released to near universal acclaim in 2013. So, like all Accords, the Hybrid offers a stylish, slick-handling package, which offers the same great interior space, and comfort of the previous generation, even though it's slightly smaller.

Honda's hybrid rethink created a system where the all-new 2.0-litre gasoline engine (141 hp and 122 pound feet of torque) only drives the vehicle on its own in "highway" scenarios, when it is electronically coupled to a single overdrive gear.

Otherwise the engine functions in Hybrid Mode, where it spins a generator, which in turn sends electricity to the electric drive motor and to the Lithium-ion battery pack. Yes, Hybrid Mode makes Accord Hybrid function very much like a Chevrolet Volt. In EV mode the gas engine is shut down, and you get about two kilometres of pure electric driving.

Hybrids typically have better city fuel efficiency ratings than their highway ratings, because EV mode only comes on in the city. But Accord's gas engine has been designed to run in a fuel-efficiency sweet spot when powering that one highway gear. Net result is a highway fuel efficiency rating, 4.0 l/100 km, which is quite close to its fantastic city rating of 3.7 l/100 km. The combined rating is 3.8 l/100 km — the best among the current crop of mid-size hybrids.

This engine runs on the Atkinson combustion cycle, which most hybrids adopt because it allows for smoother and faster starting (hybrids always ask their gasoline engines to shut down whenever they can, so re-starts need to be smooth). But the Atkinson cycle is not best for ultimate power.

So Honda created engine camshafts with two sets of lobes (Atkinson and regular). The engine management system figures out which to use and when. The normal Accord is very quiet on the road. This thing is quiet with cheese.

The Accord Hybrid is actually equipped with a noise-making device for EV mode, to get pedestrian attention. I'm not fond of it, but the high-pitch sound recedes from your attention easily enough when you're not 100 per cent paying attention to it, and you can manually turn it off. The hybrid handles similarly to the Accord sedan, which is to say, admirably. The added weight of the electric-drive hardware was compensated with more aluminum panels and suspension bits, and a special rear suspension.

The Accord Hybrid debuts a new tweak to "regenerative braking," by coming on immediately after the driver takes his or her foot of the accelerator. Normal systems come on only when the brake pedal is activated. This does affect the "feel" of the coasting, but it's for a good cause.

The other trippy thing is how the gasoline engine effort and sound is not always directly correlated to what the vehicle is doing on the road. But get used to that, and the hybrid rewards with a smooth and serene driving experience. The three driving modes come and go as they please, in a very seamless fashion.

If you need lots of cargo space, make sure you can live with the Hybrid's smaller trunk. The only other caveat might be price. The Accord is priced at a slight premium over the other mid-size hybrid competitors. While the base model goes for $29,590, the $35,690 Touring model is where you get navigation and the newer convenience and safety features. But either model is an entry into one of the most advanced hybrid and fuel-efficiency technologies currently on the market.

Battery pack

The 1.3 kW/h lithium-ion battery is located behind the rear seat, and is cooled by drawing in air from the interior. The pack sends electricity to the electric drive motor for pure electric drive (EV mode). The pack gets charged in two ways: when that drive motor goes backwards in "regeneration mode" under braking and coasting conditions, and by the generator spun by new 2.0-litre gasoline engine.

Electric motor

The Accord doesn't really have a transmission in the conventional sense. The gas engine is only connected to the drive wheels when electronically engaged to one highway gear. The rest of the time the 124 kW electric drive motor with 226 lb-ft of torque is powering the drive wheels. This drive motor is fed by either the battery pack, or by the adjoining generator, which looks like a smaller version of the electric drive motor.

The impressive Honda electric motor. PHOTO: HONDA

Compare

1. Ford Fusion Hybrid
base price: $17,000
2. Hyundai Sonata Hybrid
base price: $17,700
3. Toyota Camry Hybrid
base price: $17,700

5 DRIVE

Beautiful oxymoron that is the big Mini

Latest model. From tiny, ground-breaking beginnings the lovable small car has grown over time but it still has people transfixed

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The new-generation Mini just introduced this week at its production facility in Oxford, England, is the biggest Mini ever.

Yes, this is the era of the big Mini, and yes, it sounds oxymoron-ish, but what are you going to do? People like the Mini, they just don't want them actually "mini" anymore.

The design challenge for the original Mini was to make the smallest possible car that would still accommodate four adults and luggage. Designer Alex Issigonis struck upon the idea of using very small 10-inch wheels, all independent suspension, a transverse mounted engine driving the front wheels, and a gearbox and final drive built into the sump of the engine. So compact; so clever!

When it came to fruition, way back in 1959, it basically changed the course of automobile design. It was cheap, practical, roomy for its size, fuel efficient, could turn corners with the best of them, fun to drive, and looked distinctive and cool.

Over 5.2 million examples and variants, under various company names and nameplates, were eventually built and bought. When the last century came to an end, the Ford Model T was named "car of the century," but Mini was not far off the Model T's rear bumper, and was named second most important car of the last 100 years. The template of a transverse-mounted engine and front-wheel drive is still the most predominant way to build a passenger car.

Mini's modern re-boot began in 2001, when the first Mini built under BMW ownership and stewardship hit the market. And you have to admire the way BMW has guided the icon forward.

The old school was very popular for its practicality and character. BOTH IMAGES BMW

The new school has the character and all-round performance too.

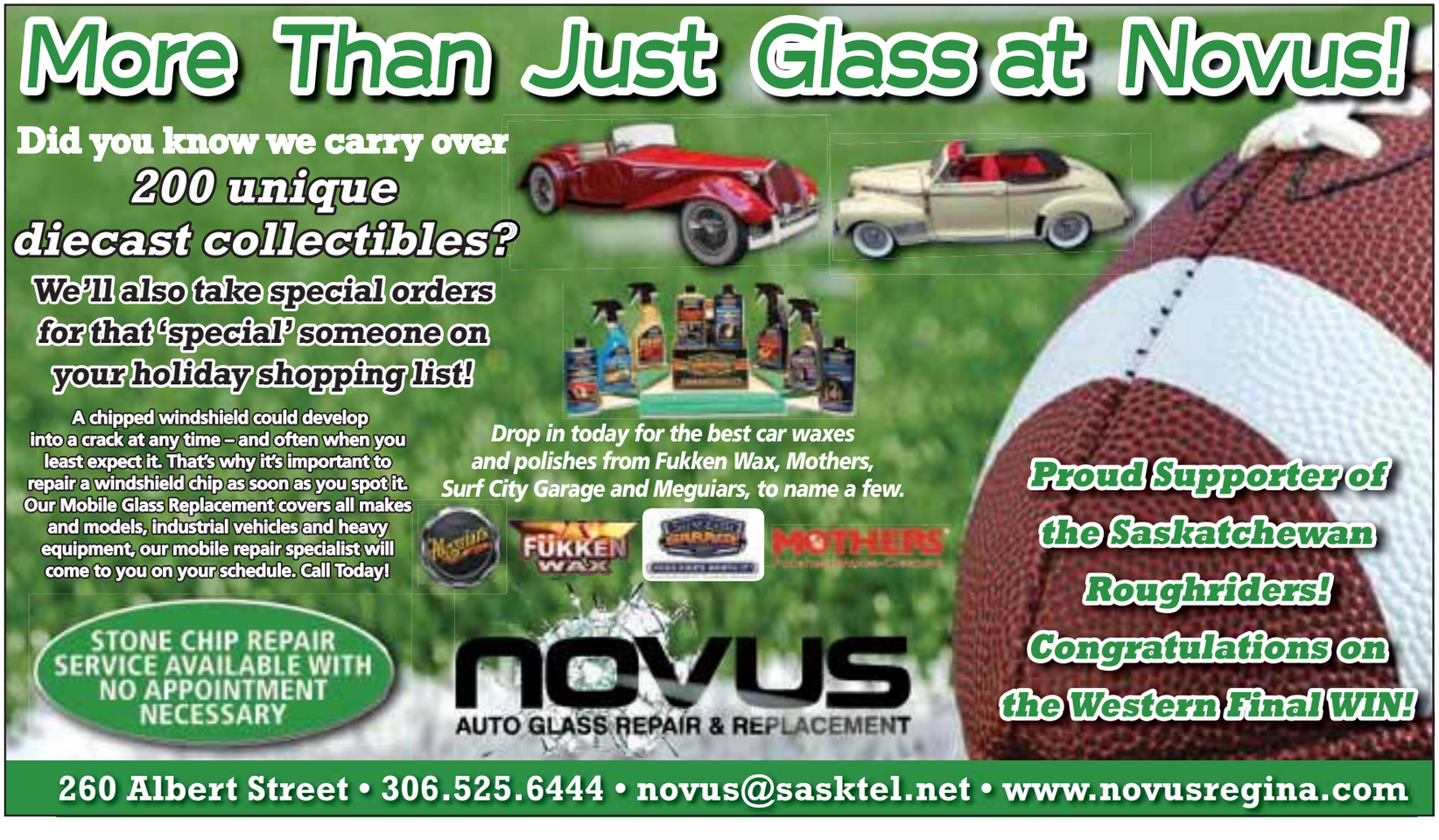
The Mini unveiled this week is the "third" Mini by BMW and it closely follows the formula of the previous redesign: Modernize and make it slightly bigger, but not so much anyone would notice by looking at in isolation. Leave the styling and iconic shape pretty much alone, because, well, everyone is good with it, and there's a chance you could screw things up.

This new Mini, on sale first in Europe and by spring here, is the first vehicle utilizing BMW's new front-wheel drive platform (called UKL), which is also destined for the next BMW 1 Series. The biggest difference over the previous platform is the increased wheelbase (now 2,495 mm) and lighter weight through more use of high-strength steel.

Those two items alone should make Mini a better performer, but BMW promises lots of other goodies, including three new twin-turbocharged engines: the 136-hp 1.5-litre "three cylinder"; the 192-hp 2.0-litre "four cylinder"; and a 116-hp 1.5-litre "three-cylinder" diesel (no word on that diesel coming here).

Interesting new technologies include optional LED headlights, a permanently installed SIM card, electric steering, head-up display, camera-based cruise control and automatic braking if a collision is imminent.

This Mini is only about half a metre longer than the original one, but lots taller and wider. Apparently cargo capacity with the rear seats down is now more than 1,000 litres. Sounds like hot-tub territory to me, and for a Mini, a little big.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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Some people achieve so much they lose touch with reality, but that's not something you have to worry about. Keep your feet planted firmly on the ground this week, and you'll accomplish more than anyone.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Make sure the needs of loved ones are taken care of today, no matter how mundane. You may wish you were doing something more interesting but people are counting on you and you can't let them down.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
However vague your ambitions may have been in recent months you now know what it is you want and how to go about getting it. Your rivals will try to block your path but they won't succeed.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There is a possibility you will waste money on things you don't need over the next 24 hours. But, if it makes you feel good about yourself, maybe it's not a problem. It's only money.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will be touchy today, and for no apparent reason. Perhaps it's good you get the bad stuff out of your system now, as later in the week you will have to work closely with people.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may feel vulnerable but try not to withdraw from the world completely. There are still things that need to be done that cannot be done on your own. Try smiling, it helps.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of power will ask you to take on extra chores today but make sure they define exactly what is expected of you, and make sure you define your limits.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A change of direction may be called for but there is no need to go to extremes. The planets indicate a minor adjustment will be enough to put you back on the path to success.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will be on the move today or tomorrow but if you want your journey to be enjoyable, you should plan before you leave. If you leave things to chance, there's no telling where you might end up.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You cannot afford to make decisions about money matters at the moment. The more others push you to move one way or the other, the more you must insist on staying right where you are. There's really no rush.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may have to give up something you enjoy to please others today, but it will be a sacrifice worth making. In the long-term the more loved ones are happy with life, the more you will be happy with life.

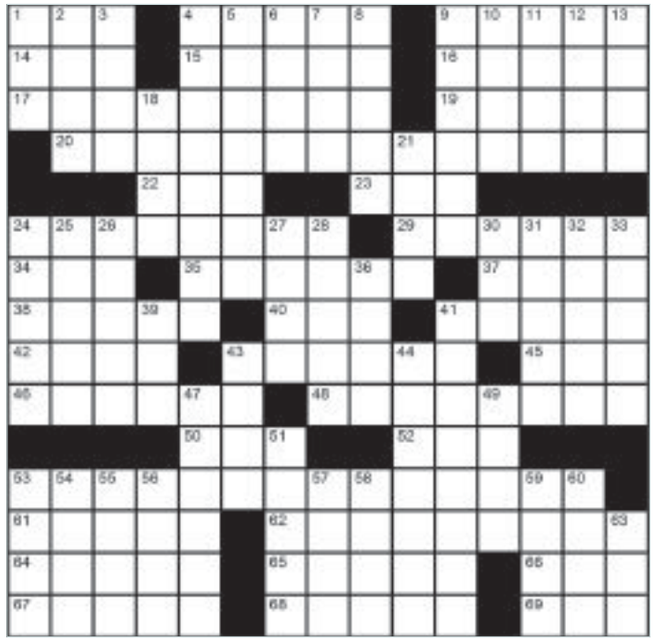
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your big idea is almost ready to go public with but if you are smart you will go over it one more time, just in case there is something you have missed.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

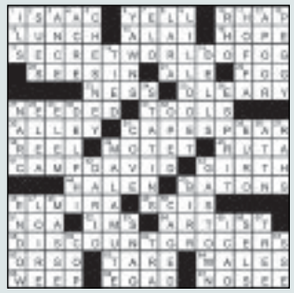
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Ratite bird
4. Bottle type
9. Norwegian dramatist Henrik
14. Poetic contraction
15. League: French
16. Hoity-__
17. Declares
19. "Sharp Dressed Man" band
20. Calgary Flames mascot: 3 wds.
22. Aspiration
23. Battery size
24. Show who's boss: 2 wds.
29. As per #44-Down, pre-video's bottom right corner button after a few seconds: 2 wds.
34. Fit Fiddle link: 2 wds.
35. Like plays, pre-audition
37. Great __ (Dog breed)
38. Guelph-born actress Ms. Campbell's
40. Black Eyed Peas member, __.de.ap
41. "Kung Fu __" (2008)
42. Welsh actor Mr. Gruffudd
43. Produce Dept.: Mango's neighbour
45. Flub
46. Iconic symbol since 1960, created by Toronto-born graphic designer Allan Fleming: acr. + wd.
48. Biblical 12
50. The Who's "Love, Reign __ Me"
52. Theatre's Ms. Hagen
53. Polar Bear, scientific-style: 2 wds.
61. 'Click' dance again
62. Briefcase contents
64. Taper off
65. Sun-dried brick
66. Deer's mom
67. Shirt's info spot
68. Moviedom's Ms. Russo's
69. Choose

Down
1. H, in ancient Greece
2. Ho Chi __ City
3. Forearm bone
4. People line up for shots to avoid it: 2 wds.
5. "Wichita __": 1968 country hit
6. 'A' in CIA, for short
7. Cooking fat
8. $inger of "Tik Tok"
9. Violinist Mr. Perlman
10. Classic television clown
11. What vision correction surgery LASIK stands for, Laser in __ Keratomileusis
12. Collar type
13. Big Apple force [acronym]
18. __ history
21. Cardinal point
24. Janet __, Brockville-born singer/songwriter
25. Apply to: 2 wds.
26. City in Quebec near Montreal
27. Sports org. founded in 1906
28. 10th Greek letter
30. Ms. Lupino
31. Group on a Sunday talk show
32. Canadian impressionist, __-Philippe Gagnon
33. Beloveds
36. High-fiving sound
39. Antacid brand
41. Interests
43. Greeting card's inner message
44. Viral videos venue
47. Music style
49. Domesticated
51. "M*A*S*H" role
53. Russian river
54. Country singer's 2001 to 2007 sitcom
55. Wild guess
56. 'Grad' add-on (Degree getter)
57. Travelled by horse
58. Legendary star
59. Reverse
60. Discontinue
63. Place

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

3			6		9			7
	9		2		4		6	
		1				4		
		4	1		5	6		
1								9
		2	9		8	3		
		9				5		
	8		7		2		3	
7			8		1			6

Yesterday's Sudoku

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